

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-24 are pending in the present application, Claims 21-24 having been added by the present amendment. In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Bunnell (U.S. Patent No. 6,119,122). The rejection of these claims is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 have been amended with minor cosmetic modifications. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Attention is first directed to the rejection of Claim 1 as anticipated by Bunnell. Claim 1 recites a method for managing a plurality of nodes in a layered hierarchically organized database stored in a server on a computer network comprising accessing a subset of said nodes in response to a client request; modifying one or more state attributes associated with said nodes to control merging and updating of layers to a resulting layered hierarchical database in response to said client request; and managing said nodes using said state attributes.

According to the Examiner, “modifying one or more state attributes associated with said nodes to control merging and updating of layers to a resulting layered hierarchical database in response to said client request” is disclosed by Bunnell at col. 7, lines 1-5 and at col. 7, lines 25-30. Applicants respectfully submit that there is no mention or suggestion of modifying state attributes associated with nodes in a layered hierarchically organized database in these cited portions of Bunnell. Rather, these portions of Bunnell mention partitions having master replicas which can be accessed by clients to make structural changes such as splitting and combining partitions or creating and removing replicas, and point out that the distributed directory is a

loosely synchronized database, and that an update made at one replica does not appear instantaneously at other replicas.

Additionally, the Examiner states that “managing said nodes using said state attributes” is disclosed by Bunnell at col. 6, lines 8-10. Applicants respectfully submit that there is no mention or suggestion of managing nodes in a layered hierarchically organized database using state attributes associated with the nodes in this cited portion of Bunnell. Rather, this cited portion of Bunnell discloses that the structure of the distributed directory is governed by a schema, and that the schema defines the rules for adding and managing objects and attributes of objects in the distributed directory.

Applicants respectfully submit that Bunnell does not disclose or suggest “modifying one or more state attributes associated with said nodes to control merging and updating of layers to a resulting layered hierarchical database in response to said client request” or “managing said nodes using said state attributes” as recited by Claim 1. Rather, Bunnell discloses a method and apparatus for generically viewing and editing values and attributes of distributed directory objects. As stated in Bunnell (Col. 3, lines 34-50):

Still another aspect of the present invention is a user interface for representing in a computer system at least a portion of a distributed directory. The distributed directory has a hierarchy of objects, each of the objects having at least one attribute with an associated value. A set of object representations are displayed in a relationship to one another for representing the hierarchy of objects for at least a portion of the distributed directory. Each object representation corresponds to one or more objects in the distributed directory. A plurality of attribute representations are displayed in a tree structure. Each of the attribute representations correspond to one or more attributes of the distributed directory object corresponding to an object representation. One or more value representations are displayed relative to an attribute representation. The value representations correspond to the associated values of the attribute corresponding to the attribute representation.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is allowable over Bunnell. With respect to Claims 2-5, these claims depend from Claim 1, and are therefore patentable, at least for the same reason.

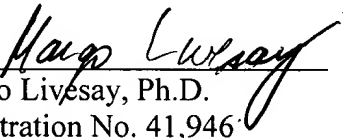
For reasons stated above with respect to Claim 1, Applicants submit that independent Claims 6, 11, and 16 are allowable over Bunnell. With respect to Claims 7-10, 12-15, and 17-20, these claims depend from Claims 6, 11, and 16, respectively, and are therefore patentable, at least for the same reason.

New dependent Claims 21-24 recite further that “each one of said state attributes indicates a last action taken on a data element of one of said nodes, and wherein each one of said state attributes comprises an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) format attribute.” This amendment adds no new matter (*see, e.g.*, specification, page 8, lines 14-15, page 12, lines 14-19, page 14, lines 16-19, page 17, line 22-page 18, line 15, Figures 5 and 8, page 9, lines 1-4, page 13, lines 19-20, page 14, lines 10-12, page 20, lines 13-14). These new Claims depend from Claims 1, 6, 11, and 16, respectively, and are therefore patentable, at least for the same reason.

In view of the foregoing comments, Applicants respectfully submit that the present amendment places the above-referenced application in condition for allowance, and thus, a swift allowance is respectfully requested so that the application may swiftly pass to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 have been amended, and new Claims 21-24 have been added as follows:

1. (Amended Twice) A method for managing a plurality of nodes in a layered hierarchically organized database stored in a server on a computer network comprising:
accessing a subset of said nodes in response to a client request;
modifying one or more state attributes associated with said nodes to control merging and updating of layers to a resulting layered hierarchical [hierarchically] database in response to said client request; and

managing said nodes using said state attributes.

6. (Amended Twice) A manager for one or more nodes in a layered hierarchically organized database stored in a server on a computer network comprising:
a subset of said nodes configured to be accessed in response to a user request; and
one or more state attributes associated with said nodes configured to be modified to control merging and updating of layers to a resulting layered hierarchical [hierarchically] database in response to said client request when said subset is used[; and],

wherein said [a] manager is configured to manage said nodes using said state attributes.

11. (Amended Twice) A computer program product comprising:
a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein configured to manage a plurality of nodes in a layered hierarchically organized database stored in a server on a computer network;

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to access a subset of said nodes in response to a client request;

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to use said subset wherein one or more state attributes associated with said nodes configured to be modified to control merging and updating of layers to a resulting layered hierarchical [hierarchically] database are modified in response to said client request; and

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to manage said nodes using said state attributes.

16. (Amended Twice) An apparatus comprising:

a subset of one or more nodes in a layered hierarchically organized database stored in a server on a computer network configured to be accessed in response to a client request;

one or more state attributes associated with said nodes configured to be modified to control merging and updating of layers to a resulting layered hierarchical [hierarchically] database in response to said client request when said subset is used; and

a manager configured to manage said nodes using said state attributes.

21. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein each one of said state attributes indicates a last action taken on a data element of one of said nodes, and wherein each one of said state attributes comprises an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) format attribute.

22. (New) The manager of Claim 6, wherein each one of said state attributes indicates a last action taken on a data element of one of said nodes, and wherein each one of said state attributes comprises an XML format attribute.

23. (New) The computer program product of Claim 11, wherein each one of said state attributes indicates a last action taken on a data element of one of said nodes, and wherein each one of said state attributes comprises an XML format attribute.

24. (New) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein each one of said state attributes indicates a last action taken on a data element of one of said nodes, and wherein each one of said state attributes comprises an XML format attribute.